

# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

L-4592-A  
September 1985



An explanation of the terms used herein may be found in OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200,  
available from OSHA regional or area offices.

(Essentially similar to U.S. Department of Labor Form OSHA-20  
and generally accepted in Canada for information purposes)  
Do Not Duplicate This Form. Request an Original.



**PRODUCT** Ethane

**CHEMICAL NAME** Ethane

**FORMULA** C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>

**SYNONYMS** Methylmethane, Bimethyl, Dimethyl,  
Ethyl Hydride

**CHEMICAL FAMILY** Alkane

**MOLECULAR WEIGHT** 30.07

**TRADE NAME** Ethane

For mixture of this product request the respective componenet Material Safty Data Sheets. See Section IX.

MATERIAL (CAS NO.)	Wt (%)	1984-1985 ACGIH TLV-TWA (OSHA-PEL)
Ethane (74-84-0)	100	Simple asphyxiant (None currently established)

<b>BOILING POINT, 760 mm. Hg</b>	-88.63°C (-127.53°F)	<b>FREEZING POINT</b>	-183.2°C (-297.8°F)
<b>SPECIFIC GRAVITY (H<sub>2</sub>O = 1)</b>	0.446 @ 0°/4°C	<b>VAPOR PRESSURE AT 21°C.</b>	544 psig
<b>VAPOR DENSITY (air = 1)</b>	1.0469 @ 60°F	<b>SOLUBILITY IN WATER, % by wt.</b>	Negligible
<b>PERCENT VOLATILES BY VOLUME</b>	100	<b>EVAPORATION RATE (Butyl Acetate = 1)</b>	High
<b>APPEARANCE AND ODOR</b> Colorless, odorless gas at normal temperature and pressure.			

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES involving this material, further information is available at all times:  
In the USA 304 — 744-3487 In Canada 514 — 645-5311  
For routine information contact your local supplier

Union Carbide requests the users of this product to study this Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and become aware of product hazards and safety information. To promote safe use of this product a user should (1) notify its employees, agents and contractors of the information on this MSDS and any product hazards and safety information, (2) furnish this same information to each of its customers for the product, and (3) request such customers to notify their employees and customers for the product of the same product hazards and safety information.

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION ☐ LINDE DIVISION  
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THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUE: See Section II.

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**EFFECTS OF A SINGLE (ACUTE) OVEREXPOSURE:**

**SWALLOWING** — An unlikely route of exposure. This product is a gas at normal temperature and pressure, but frostbite of the lips and mouth may result from contact with the liquid.

**SKIN ABSORPTION** — No evidence of adverse effects from available information.

**INHALATION** — Asphyxiant. Moderate concentrations may cause headache, drowsiness, dizziness, excitation, excess salivation, vomiting and unconsciousness.

**SKIN CONTACT** — No harmful effect expected from vapor. Liquid may cause frostbite.

**EYE CONTACT** — No harmful effect expected from vapor. Liquid may cause frostbite.

**EFFECTS OF REPEATED (CHRONIC) OVEREXPOSURE:** No evidence of adverse effects from available information.

**OTHER EFFECTS OF OVEREXPOSURE:** None currently known. This product is an asphyxiant. Lack of oxygen can cause death.

**MEDICAL CONDITIONS AGGRAVATED BY OVEREXPOSURE:** A knowledge of the available toxicology information and of the physical and chemical properties of the material suggest that overexposure is unlikely to aggravate existing medical conditions.

**SIGNIFICANT LABORATORY DATA WITH POSSIBLE RELEVANCE TO HUMAN HEALTH HAZARD EVALUATION:** None currently known.

**EMERGENCY AND FIRST AID PROCEDURES:**

**SWALLOWING** — This product is a gas at normal temperature and pressure.

**SKIN** — For exposure to liquid, immediately warm frostbite area with warm water (not to exceed 105°F). In case of massive exposure, remove clothing while showering with warm water. Call a physician.

**INHALATION** — Remove to fresh air. Give artificial respiration if not breathing. Give oxygen if breathing is difficult. Call a physician.

**EYE** — In case of splash contamination, immediately flush eyes thoroughly with water for at least 15 minutes. See a physician, preferably an ophthalmologist, immediately.

**NOTE TO PHYSICIAN:** *There is no specific antidote. Treatment of overexposure should be directed at the control of symptoms and the clinical condition.*

<b>FLASH POINT</b> (test method)		- 135°C (- 211°F)	<b>AUTOIGNITION TEMPERATURE</b>	472.2°C (882°F)
<b>FLAMMABLE LIMITS IN AIR, % by volume</b>	<b>LOWER</b>	2.9%	<b>UPPER</b>	13.0%

**EXTINGUISHING MEDIA:** CO<sub>2</sub>, dry chemical, water spray or fog.

**SPECIAL FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURES:** Evacuate all personnel from danger area. Immediately cool containers with water spray from maximum distance taking care not to extinguish flames. Remove ignition sources if without risk. If flames are accidentally extinguished, explosive re-ignition may occur; therefore, appropriate measures should be taken; e.g. total evacuation. Reapproach with extreme caution. Use self-contained breathing apparatus. Stop flow of gas if without risk while continuing cooling water spray. Remove all containers from area of fire if without risk. Allow fire to burn out. On site fire brigades must comply with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.156.

**UNUSUAL FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS:** Flammable gas. Forms explosive mixtures with air and oxidizing agents. Container may rupture due to heat of fire. Do not extinguish flames due to possibility of explosive re-ignition. Flammable vapors may spread from spill. Explosive atmospheres may linger. Before entering area, especially confined areas, check atmosphere with approved device. No part of a container should be subjected to a temperature higher than 52°C (approximately 125°F).

Most containers are provided with a pressure relief device designed to vent contents when they are exposed to elevated temperature.

<b>STABILITY</b>		<b>CONDITIONS TO AVOID:</b> High temperature. See Section IX.
<b>UNSTABLE</b>	<b>STABLE</b>	
	X	

**INCOMPATIBILITY (materials to avoid):** Oxidizing agents. Chlorine and ethane have produced explosions. Chlorine dioxide and ethane explode spontaneously.

**HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS:** At high temperature and low pressure ethane is decomposed to form hydrogen. Thermal decomposition or burning in the presence of air or oxygen will produce CO/CO<sub>2</sub>.

<b>HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION</b>		<b>CONDITIONS TO AVOID:</b> None currently known.
<b>May Occur</b>	<b>Will not Occur</b>	
	X	

#### STEPS TO BE TAKEN IF MATERIAL IS RELEASED OR SPILLED

**DANGER:** Forms explosive mixtures with air (see Section V). Immediately evacuate all personnel from danger area. Use self-contained breathing apparatus where needed. Remove all sources of ignition if without risk. Reduce vapors with fog or fine water spray. Shut off leak if without risk. Ventilate area of leak or move leaking container to well-ventilated area. Flammable vapors may spread from spill. Before entering area, especially confined areas, check atmosphere with appropriate device.

**WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD:** Prevent waste from contaminating surrounding area. Keep personnel away. Discard any product, residue, disposable container or liner in an environmentally acceptable manner, in full compliance with federal, state and local regulations.

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION (specify type):** Select in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134. Respirators shall be acceptable to MSHA and NIOSH.

VENTILATION	<b>LOCAL EXHAUST</b> — Explosion proof system is acceptable
	<b>MECHANICAL (general)</b> — Inadequate. See SPECIAL
	<b>SPECIAL</b> — Use in a closed system.
	<b>OTHER</b> — Not applicable. See SPECIAL

**PROTECTIVE GLOVES:** Preferred for cylinder handling and to prevent liquid exposure.

**EYE PROTECTION:** Select in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.133

**OTHER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:** Metatarsal shoes for cylinder handling. Protective clothing where needed. Select in accordance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.132 and 1910.133.

**DANGER:** Flammable, liquefied gas under pressure. Use piping and equipment adequately designed to withstand pressures to be encountered. May form explosive mixtures with air. Keep away from oxidizing agents. Ground all equipment. Only use spark proof tools and explosion proof equipment. Keep away from heat, sparks and open flame. Store and use with adequate ventilation at all times. Use only in a closed system. Close valve when not in use and when empty.

**MIXTURES:** When two or more gases, or liquefied gases are mixed, their hazardous properties may combine to create additional, unexpected hazards. Obtain and evaluate the safety information for each component before you produce the mixture. Consult an Industrial Hygienist, or other trained person when you make your safety evaluation of the end product. Remember, gases and liquids have properties which can cause serious injury or death.

Be sure to read and understand all labels and other instructions supplied with all containers of this product.

**NOTE:** Compatibility with plastics should be confirmed prior to use. For safety information on general handling of compressed gas cylinders, obtain a copy of pamphlet P-1, "Safe Handling of Compressed Gases in Containers" from the Compressed Gas Association, Inc., 1235 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

**OTHER HANDLING AND STORAGE CONDITIONS:** Never work on a pressurized system. If there is a leak, close the cylinder valve, blow down the system by venting to a safe place, then repair the leak.

The opinions expressed herein are those of qualified experts within Union Carbide. We believe that the information contained herein is current as of the date of this Material Safety Data Sheet. Since the use of this information and these opinions and the conditions of use of the product are not within the control of Union Carbide, it is the user's obligation to determine the conditions of safe use of the product.



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